

25 Years Later—Tears and Television Again

Twenty-five years ago, on Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas. Shortly thereafter, his assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was killed by Jack Ruby as news cameras rolled. Television brought the Kennedy funeral procession to the nation.

This week, television, which brought America's mourning into focus a quarter century ago, offers a number of specials and movies to mark that anniversary:

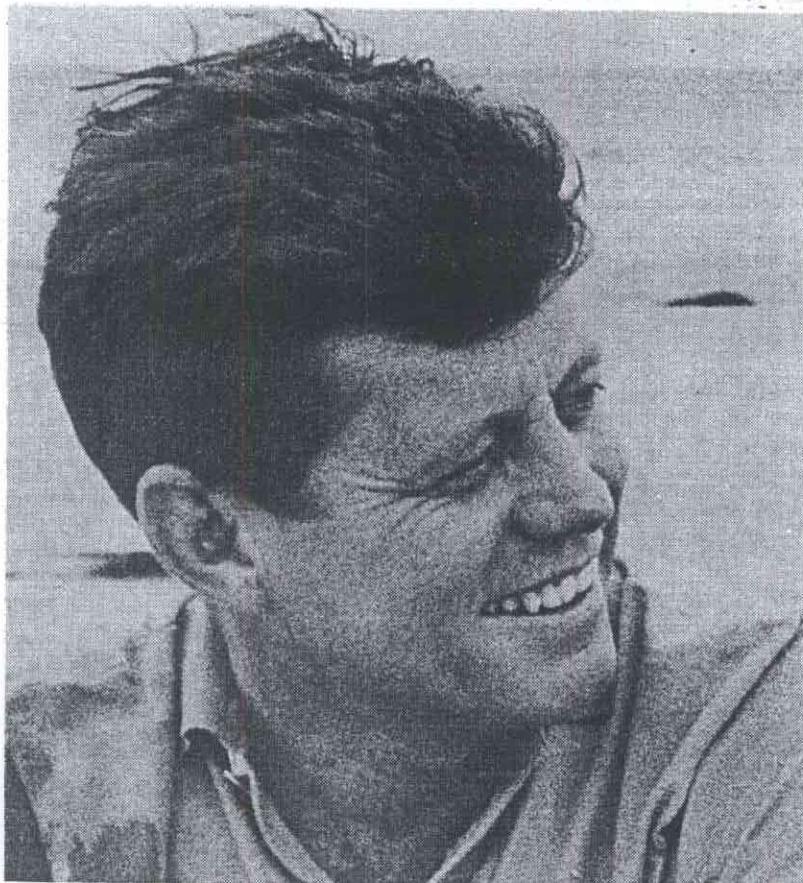
- "Age of Kennedy" (Sunday at 8 on Arts & Entertainment) is a two-part profile of John Kennedy's life and career. Henry Fonda reads from Kennedy's works; Chet Huntley narrates.

- "JFK's Washington" (Monday at 11:30, Thursday at 3) is a half-hour WRC special hosted by Dave Marash reviewing the Kennedys' interest in local government and civil rights, in improving mass transportation, in renovating the Pennsylvania Avenue area, in restoring Lafayette Square and in building a cultural center—it would become his memorial.

- "JFK: That Day in November" (Tuesday at 10) is an NBC News special chronicling the Kennedy years and his death through documentary footage and interviews, and reviewing the controversy surrounding his assassination.

- "JFK: In His Own Words," HBO's one-hour documentary (Tuesday at 8, Friday at 4) includes sound and film clips with Kennedy as narrator, home movies, radio speeches, film of him campaigning, his wedding to Jacqueline Bouvier and his 1960 debates with Richard Nixon.

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- "JFK: A Time Remembered" (Monday on 22/67 and 26) examines the impact Kennedy had on Americans and offers recollections by colleagues, friends and journalists, including Tom Wicker and Dan Rather. Stay tuned on WETA for "John Fitzgerald Kennedy," a 1964 documentary narrated by Cliff Robertson.

- "JFK Assassination: As It Happened" Arts & Entertainment will interrupt its regular programming at 1:56 Tuesday to

air four hours of NBC's coverage of the assassination (without commercial interruptions) and a 90-minute wrap-up at 6:30, hosted by Edwin Newman. At 9 p.m. and 1 a.m.: "Kennedy's Don't Cry," a documentary narrated by Cliff Robertson.

- "John Fitzgerald Kennedy: A Celebration of His Life and Times" airs at 8 p.m. on The Disney Channel Tuesday.

- "Years of Lightning, Days of Drums" airs on Cinemax Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

- "PT 109," starring Cliff Robertson as

Kennedy, Navy patrol boat commander, airs Tuesday at 12:30 a.m. on WGN.

- "On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald" is Geraldo Rivera's contribution, a condensed version of the Oswald trial first broadcast on Showtime in 1986. Viewers can call to vote whether they think Oswald was guilty, as the Warren Commission concluded he was. Part 1 is Tuesday at 11, after the Capitals-Islanders match; Part 2 is Wednesday at 8 on Channel 20. The program airs at 8 both days on 45.

—Patricia Brennan